

There has been no Time either small or great  
 spent when you thought, but you  
 have been thinking of me, and you  
 have been thinking of me, and you  
 have been thinking of me, and you

in the Reign of King Lewis the  
 second have made in the common Con-  
 sideration that you were never to live as when

**A**  
**LETTER**  
**TO**

**Mr. FERGUSON.**

**SIR,**

**T**HERE is but One Person in the  
 World that has so much Pretence  
 to an Address of this Nature as Your  
 self. His Head is indeed turn'd like  
 your own ; 'Tis Crafty, False, full of Plots  
 and Contrivances, and has most wonderfully  
 sav'd its Neck hitherto, as it is well known  
 you have done in despite of Danger. But  
 it being still a Doubt what the End of that  
 Person will be, and so one may bring Incon-  
 venience on One's self, by having Commerce  
 with him ; I chose rather to correspond with  
 you, who having out-liv'd the Talents that  
 expos'd you to so much Evil, but has pur-  
 chas'd you an Immortal Name, will do Ho-  
 nour to such an Essay, by suffering it to ap-  
 pear before it.

**A**

**There**

B. 2. 27. 1. 5. 2. 5 [ 2 ] B. 2. 27. 1. 5. 2. 5  
There has been no Plot, either small or great, that happen'd when you flourish'd, but you may lawfully claim the Merit of it; and your Services in that Point to the several successive Ministries in the Reign of King Charles the Second have made it the common Conjecture, that you were never so safe as when you seem'd most in Danger; and that you have been paid by them according to the Efficacy of every Plot, and the Heads which were taken off by it. Thus it is said you have always been provided of Plots, and have sold 'em Ready-made as the cheaper Commodity: But when the Times have stood in need of a substantial Conspiracy, which has requir'd much Thought, and to be well labour'd and attested, you have then rais'd the Price, and giv'n more of your Brains to it, than for a Common Plot; such as the *Meal-Tub*, *Rye-House*, *Irish Massacre*, and *Lancashire-Plots*.

If you will permit me to reflect a little on Matters of this kind, I will beg you to remember with me what Sorts of Plots we have had, and at whose Doors we must lay them. Now I think there are but Two Parties among us that can truly deserve the Name of Plotters, the *Whigs* and the *Tories*; under which Denominations every Sect and Faction are imply'd. To the *Tories* we may lay at least Three Plots, and to the *Whigs* Four or Five, all within your Time: But the *Tories* have shewn that they Excel the *Whigs* as much in the Depth and Success of their Conspiracies, as in the Loyalty of their Principles; for to the *Tories* belong entirely the *Popish-Plot*, the *Abdication-Plot*, and the *Assassination-Plot*. To the *Whigs*,

*Whigs*, the *Presbyterian Plot*, and the Four Last Plots of the *Pins*, the *Puppets*, the *Mobocks*, and the *Bandbox*. Let any impartial Man judge then, whether the *Whiggs* can pretend to compare with the *Tories*, or are by any means so clever at their Business. They are always found out before they well know what they are doing; and have manag'd themselves so foolishly, that 'tis a Doubt to this Day, whether they were ever in a Plot or no: Whereas, the *Tories* go through-Stitch; and what is very extraordinary, have been so cunning as to bring one King into a Plot against Himself, and turn another out for Plotting against Them. What they would have done with King *William* had they caught him at *Turnham-Green*, any one may know that reads *Charnock* and *Perkins's Tryal*; *Stanch Tories* both of them, and no more *Papists* than *Lesly* or *Sacheverel*; whereas the *Whigs* are so aukard at the Work, that 'tis discover'd before it is thought of; and of all the Five Plots they have to brag of, I don't find one that a Man could fairly hang for; which is like their sneaking way of doing Things. That the *Popish* was a *Tory Plot*, none can question, but those who deny there was any Plot at all; which cannot be deny'd without giving the Lye to both King and Parliament, who declar'd there was a Damnable Plot by *Papists*; tho' whether it was against a *Popish King* or only against the Protestant Religion, I will not determine. *Tom Killigrew* knew what he said when he told King *Charles*, *Your Majesty knows more of the Plot than any Body else*; and your Discovery of it would quickly

A 2

satisfy



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*satisfy the People*; but the King would not say a Word, and it all ended with the Hanging *Coleman*, and 8 or 10 *Tories* more; for which the *Whigs* pay'd severely Two or Three Years after. The *Tories* you know, soon turn'd the Tables on them; and the *Popish* Plot being laught out of Doors, made room for the *Presbyterian*; which if all were true that is said of it by a Bishop and other good Authority, was a sad Plot indeed.

For after they had done what they would with the King and his *Dearest* Brother, if you will take his Majesty's own Word for it, there was to have been a *Massacre*. Some swore the Judges were to be *Fleed*, and their Skins *Stuff'd* and *Hung* up in *Guildhall*. As to the Killing and *Stuffing* them, I think it had better have been left out of the Plot; but if they had been lawfully *bung* up, there had been no great Harm done; considering, as the Parliament have since Enacted, they *murder'd* *Stephen College*, the Lord *Russell*, Coll. *Sydney*, Sir *Thomas Armstrong*, and others. This Plot, which you know Sir, was to have had its beginning at a *Foot-Ball Match* at *Blackbeath*, suffer'd extreamly in its Reputation, by my Lord *Russell's* protesting in the Words of a dying Man, he knew of no Plot either against the King's Life or Government. And tho' the King put out a Declaration, and a Bishop a Book, to prove what you knew more of than all of them; yet the Credit of this Plot sunk mightily after the Revolution, upon the House of Lords appointing a Committee to examine *who were the Advisers and Prosecutors of the Murder of the Lord Russel*, Sir *Thomas Armstrong*, &c. And  
 Sir



Sir *Robert Sawyer*, then Attorney-General, was expell'd the House of Commons, for being concern'd in Prosecuting the Latter. So that the *Whigs*, for ought I see, have nothing to answer for, but the *Pinns*, the *Puppets*, the *Mobocks*, and the *Bandbox*; which are of very late Date, and have nothing at all of the Spirit and Contrivance of the Plots of your *Day and Design*.

For tho' you got over to *Holland*, at the breaking out of the *Presbyterian Plot*, and came over with King *William*, yet I am inform'd you might have been caught if the Court had been so minded; and that you your self who made that *Plot*, was the very Person who discover'd it; which, it is true, those are the best qualify'd to do, that are the Contrivers of a Thing. And it would be a great satisfaction to the World if you would let them into the Secret of your Escape on that Occasion; and why, when the Warrant was deliver'd to *Legat* the Messenger to seize the rest of the Offenders; Secretary *Jenkyns* gave Him a strict Command not to take you, but to shun you where e're he met you; and if he should happen to find you in Company among the rest, he should let you go; which is a Mystery People want sadly to have unriddled; you being known to be a Man of that Integrity and Plain-Dealing, we can hardly suppose you would be a State-Intelligencer, or betray your Confederates. Neither can it be imagin'd, that a Man of so much Honour and Capacity as Sir *Lionel Jenkyns*, would either trust *Legat* with such a suspicious Order, or be accessary to the Death of so many honest

nest Gentlemen, by such indirect Means. In short, if you will not tell how it is, we must leave it a Mystery as we found it, and the *Whigs* will still have a pretence to deny the whole Business; of which, if they could get off, all the Plots of the last Reigns will lye upon the *Tories*, except those of the *Band-box*, the *Mobocks*, the *Puppets*, and the *Pinns*; which will be prov'd presently to have very ill Meanings, and they can never clear themselves of them as long as *Abel* has any Credit in the World, which surely will be as long as History, Truth, and Modesty are in Esteem among Men.

I need not mention the *Meal-Tub Plot*, because no Mischief came of it; but I must needs own it was a great weakning of the *Rye-house*; for the *Tories* having try'd to fasten a Plot upon the *Whigs*, whether they would or no, by the help of Mrs. *Cellier* and some others of the *Party*, it gave a Handle to the Incredulous to say they had done the same, but with better Fortune in the Second *Presbyterian Plot*, which as I said must be fix'd upon the *Whiggs*, to make up Five Grand Plots on their Side, as well as Three on the *Tories*.

As to the *Abdication Plot*, the *Tories* ran inro it before they were aware of it, and as if they were asham'd of doing good, repented of it before it was executed. But it will always be put to their Account, and the *Whigs* will even out of spite give them the Honour of it: For the *Revolution* began with a *Memorial from the Church of England to the Prince and Princess of Orange*. The Earl of S—, the Lord *Eland*, the Lord *Dunblane*, and others, actually came over with

with the Prince of *Orange*. The Earl of *Bath* siez'd *Plymouth*; the Earl of *Danby*, *York*; The Earl of *Abingdon* join'd the Prince early; Sir *Edward Seymour*, and the University of *Oxford*, would not be satisfy'd without a worse *Association* than that they had abhorr'd 4 or 5 Years before. The Lord *Cornbury* was the First that left the King's Army; the Duke of O——d did the same at *Andover*: The Bishop of L——n put himself at the Head of a Troop of Horse; the Earl of *Clarendon* went into the Prince; the Duke of N——d with his Troop of Guards declar'd for him. Thus it appears very plainly, that King *James* the IId was not abdicated by the *Whigs*, who however have since set up for *Resistance and necessary Means*; as tho' they only had done the Prince of *Orange*'s Business; and the *Tories* have been such Fools, as to let them run away with the Glory of a *Revolution*, for which they themselves would have been hang'd had it not succeeded. 'Tis strange, methinks, they should be so civil as to run all the Risk, and let their Antagonists reap the Honour of the Enterprize. If it had met with the same Success as *Monmouth*'s did, it would have had the same Name and Consequences; no Body can doubt it; and therefore Those who are for *Indefeasible, Unalienable, Jure Divino*, and the like, will find it very difficult to clear their Carriage at the *Revolution* from the Scandal of a *Plot*; which was the best for this Nation that ever was, or ever will be, having sav'd all that the *Tories* would have given up again by a Plot of so black a Dye, that it is not to be mention'd without Horror and

and Trembling. And as I have no Mind to be so much out of Humour my self, so I think the same of Others, and shall spare them the Trouble of remembering it. Only one cannot but observe, that there was not one *Fanatick* in all the *Assassination-Plot*, and not one *Whig* who did not heartily Sign the *Association* against it.

We have had several other Diminutive Plots which have prov'd Abortive, and the *Tories* have always come in for their Share. *Preston's* is their own, as Major *Ashton's* Last Speech makes out beyond Contradiction: But it was a silly Business, and so unworthy your Genius, that you were not suspected to have any Part in it.

The *Tories*, since Sir *John Friend* was caught somewhere, have not given themselves the Fatigue of *Plotting*. What they have done, has been downright and barefac'd Tumult, *Sedition* and *Rebellion*, as in the Doctor's Case. And having by this means made the *Whigs* Angry, they thought they had Ground enough to load 'em with a *Plot* or Two; which, it must be confess'd, are the worst they ever were guilty of. You never form'd any Thing for them in the Height of your *Disgust* and *Machinations*, that was like to be so mischievous. I mean the *Pinns*, the *Puppets*, the *Mobocks*, and the *Bandbox*; The First being to throw down the Church; the Second to throw down the Pretender; the Third to knock down the Warch; and the Last to kill the first Man that shou'd meddle with it. As to the *Pinns*, I know some People are of another Opinion, and think, because the Church stood  
so



so long without Pinns, and may probably stand so these Thousand Years, there cou'd be no Plot in stealing them away ; but to sell 'em for Old Iron. That cou'd never be : For whoever stole them, cou'd not propose to make above 10 or 20 Pound by them ; and he might have got more by bringing them forth ; and discovering 'em ; the Gazette offering Fifty, if not an Hundred. 'Twas reported, that the *Pinns* being factiously and traiterously taken away by *Fanaticks*, Enemies to Monarchy and Episcopacy , *St. Paul's* was to have tumbled when it was full of the best Company in *England* ; and, as the Gunpowder-Plot was to have blown 'em up, this was to crush 'em to Pieces : It being insinuated, that the whole Fabrick by Removal of the Pinns was to have tumbled at once ; and that the *Plotter* had so nick'd it, as to make it stand just to the Tenth Part of a Minute, and then to come down with a Vengeance. Every thing is merry in this horrid Conspiracy, but the Imagination that the most *Sacred* Life in the World was to have been lost in it. The very Image forbids all Sport, and turns what otherwise would be Ludicrous into Terror. Tho considering it was all Invention, it takes off much of it, and leaves room for Laughter at the Whimsicalness of the *Pinn* Conspiracy. However I have been inform'd, that the *Pinns* were afterwards found in Fanatical Hands ; and that the Wretch who stole them, prov'd to be a greater Cheat than was expected, being an *Anabaptist* as well as a *Thief*. I did not enquire critically into the Truth of it, knowing by Experience that a Cloak has hid

more Knaves than one, and that a Band is only an Outward Sign of Sanctification.

The Whigs will have more to do to get off of the Puppets; for that the History is against them, and the truest History that ever was writ, since that of the *Rye-house* Plot. I mean Mr. Roper's of the 20th of November, 1711.

On Saturday Morning, about 2 a Clock, says that Ingenious Author, were seiz'd by Three Messengers, and some of the Guards, in Drury-Lane, the Effigies of the Pope, the Devil, and the Pretender, in a Box with a Canopy over it, Four Jesuits, Four Cardinals, and Four Fryars, and carried to the Right Honourable the Earl of D---'s Office. They were design'd to be carry'd in Procession that Evening, in Order to be burnt at Night: That Day being the Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's Accession to the Throne; Here this Impartial Writer makes these Judicious Reflections, and lets one into the Secret; Was the Pretence of making such a Show, in Order to draw a great Mob together, who might have done a great deal of Mischief, had not the same been PRUDENTLY prevented by seizing the afore-said Effigies, and by raising the Train-bands of this City, and the Militia of Westminster, which were out that Day in the Morning till Yesterday. All this might have pass'd for bare Surmise, if one had not the Judgment of so extraordinary a Person, to confirm the Belief of a dangerous Conspiracy. This Design, continues he, was undoubtedly to disturb the Peace of this Kingdom, and reflect on the Queen and Ministry. Which way of arguing is so nervous and natural, it must convince every body. Because Thirty Two Years before that, a most pompous  
Pro-

Procession of the same Kind was made at a prodigious Expence, in Honour of Queen Elizabeth, our Glorious Protestant Queen. Therefore the doing something like it now, must naturally be a Design to reflect on Her Present Majesty, who, with that Immortal Princesses's Motto, possesses all her other Virtues, and so piously imitates her Reign. One wou'd wonder how such Stuff as this can pass upon reasonable Creatures. And perhaps it does not; for it is much more to the Honour of our Species, to suppose those Creatures are not reasonable. The next Time our Incomparable Historian speaks of this Matter, he does it thus. *When any Impartial Judge will consider the End for which it was design'd, and the Consequences that might have attended such a riotous Proceeding, set on Foot by a certain despicable, insolent, factious Party, who, when in P-----, exclaim'd against, as much as now they seem'd to applaud it, must be thoroughly satisfy'd 'twas not to celebrate the Memory of that Glorious Princess Queen Elizabeth, whose Anniversary they have from the Year 1679. let pass almost unobserv'd. Now comes the Matter of Fact, as he learnt it from his own evil Genius: For all Papers else, all Persons in the World have been silent. The true Intent of this was to raise a Mob to confront the Best of Q—— and Her M—— pull down the Houses of several Honest, Worthby, Loyal, True English Gentlemen, having had Money distributed amongst them some time before for that Purpose. G. G. G. S. S. S. W. H. M. an Insatiable Ambitious F-----, cum multis aliis, who made the Subscription, and at the same time gave it out, that Her Majesty was very ill, if not dead, in or-*

der to have acted their T — n with the greater Freedom. Which dreadful Piece of History he cannot repeat without expressing his Piety. But, God be praised, to their great Mortification, and the Joy of all True Churchmen, &c. there is nothing in it, or Words to that Effect. The Delight that such Writings give a Man, must needs make one in Love with them; and I deny my self, and the Reader, a very exquisite Pleasure, in leaving out the rest of those Papers that relate to this Subject; but I have confin'd my self to so narrow a Compass, that we must content our selves with this. The Gentlemen who were charg'd with subscribing to the Expence of these Puppets, put out a Paper with a full Account of the intended Procession: And confess'd, that the Pope, the Devil, the Pretender, and all the jolly Crew before-mentioned, in their Robes of Bayes and Tinsel, were to have been committed to the Flames: As all of them, but the Pretender, had often far'd before, to the great Comfort of good Protestants. And it was not imagin'd, that the Pretender was too good for such Company, or that he might not have had the same Usage without either T — n or Sedition. Those Gentlemen having confess'd as much as all this comes too, I do not see how the Whigs can clear themselves of their Design to bring Folks together on that Night: For it wou'd surely have had that Effect. The Red Bayes wou'd have been taken for Broad-cloth, and the Tinsel for Gold; Forty or Fifty Links wou'd have made the Show glitter like a Court Scene on the Stage, and the Rabble, no doubt, wou'd have star'd at it: But



But how it follows, that because they wou'd have been glad to have seen the *Pretender* and the *Pope* in a Bone-fire, that therefore they wou'd have pull'd down Honest Gentlemen's Houses, I do not comprehend. That is one of the Sagacious Mr. *Roper's* Consequences. As if no Gentlemen cou'd be honest, that were not for the *Pope* and the *Pretender*. I am not here debating the good Manners or good Policy of insulting the *Pope* thus, as he is a Temporal Prince; but as to the *Devil*, and the *Pretender*, I think they may go together, if People have a Fancy for't, as the Two greatest Enemies we have both in this World and the next. After all, if this must be allow'd to be a *Whig* Conspiracy, because it was to commemorate the Anniversary of the best Church-Queen this Nation was ever bless'd with before our own Times; let them get off as well as they can; I shall say no more for them, and let the World think what they please of such *Deep* and *Dangerous* Plotters. 'Twas given out, that under Colour of this Procession, there was to have been an Insurrection, and that an Army lay conceal'd in the *Pall Mall*, like that of the Two *Brentford* Kings at *Knightsbridge*, to be headed by the Duke of *M* — — *b* then on the other Side of the Water. What this Army was to do, I have not heard; except the pulling down Two or Three Houses: A Plot fit for *Tylers* and *Bricklayers*, who might have got something by it; but what Advantage it wou'd have been to any one else, is as much a Riddle to me as the Plot it self. I am far from making a Jest of any Laudable Endeavours for  
prefer-

preserving the Peace of the City: Only I think it is a Reflection on the Watch, to whom we commit the Charge of both Body and Goods, to question their Valour or Vigilance, and to be every now and then putting the Train'd-Bands over their Heads; which some say in Raillery is the true way of raising the Mob: That they never did any good; and when there has been Mischief done, that they always have had a hand in it; intimating, that they are never the less Rabble for their Buff and their Bandeliers. I must confess I cannot talk of the *Milini* so slightingly, and never see 'em out, but, like other Sage People, I think presently there's something in't, and that we are in more Danger than we are aware of. Which, it may be, is what is intended by it in some Cases, to give Jealousy of a *Ruin'd Despicable* Faction, who have it as little in their Powers to do Hurt, as it is in their Wills; and in my Mind, he must be a Fool that's afraid of 'em.

The next Plot they are charg'd with, is that of the *Mobocks*. This indeed sticks close: For the Mischief said to be done by those *Scourers*, if true, wou'd render the *Whigs* some of the wickedest People that ever were: These *Mobocks* falling upon every one they met, and particularly on the Night-Walkers and chief Magistrates. There's a Hundred Stories told of them, of Slitting of Noses, of Cutting of Ears, Pinking of Skins, Twirling of Hats, Tearing Scarfs, Beating the Watch, and Striking Terror where-ever they came. The Truth of the Matter is this, a Parcel of Wild Young Fellows frequenting a  
Tavern

Tavern in *Fleetstreet*, when the Four Kings visited us, took upon them the Name of *Mohocks*, and play'd some such Sorts of Pranks as the *Scourers* did 20 or 30 Years before. The *Whigs* were upon this represented to be at their old Trade of Plotting again; and the little Riots that were occasion'd by those Frolicksome Sparks, whose Emperor, as their Captain was stil'd, was so far from being a *Whig*, that, to my Knowledge, there is not a *Whig* in his Family, were all laid at their Door, as the Means made Use of to create more dangerous Disturbances. If any one cannot believe this Report and Calumny cast on that Mischievous Party; if to them it looks too ridiculous to be true, let 'em see what one of Mr. Roper's Brother-Writers says of it. He had been speaking of the Devil, the Pope, and the Pretender: *This Design*, says he, *being prevented by the seizing of their Tools, and keeping out the Train'd-Bands to prevent Riots, they were not a little vex'd and angry at the Disappointment, and in their Rage fell to practising the most unspeakable Barbarities, under the Name of Mohocks: This was under pretence of Raking; but something else was at the Boottom.* The Design was laid deep, it seems; and by whom, we may know by his very next Words. I need not mention their Under-band Practices of obstructing the Measures of Peace, which alone at present can make this Nation happy; and of blackening the Ministers, who are transacting it, with all the most odious Calumnies: And scandalously and falsely saying, that they are bringing in the Pretender; when nothing is further from their Hearts, and all the securest Methods possibly taken by the Treaty to have him excluded

*cluded for ever.* One wou'd think by the Strength of the Reasoning, and the Beauty of the Language, this had *pass'd under the Pen* of Dr. S. But to deal plainly with the Reader, I took it from nor better nor worse than an Honest *Grubstreet* Half-penny Scribler, a Fellow-Labourer in the same Case, set at Work by an empty Pocket and sharp Stomach; yet this is what the Rabble hear daily bawl'd about the Street, and greedily they suck in the Poison: These *Scriptions* reaching those who cannot buy above a Half pennyworth of Scandal at a Time; and as they make up the Numbers, the Mischief they do is the more pernicious. I defy the Doctor himself to tell this Story more cleverly, or to make more Judicious Reflections, or more delicate Eulogy. The *Mohock* Plot lasted no longer than till a Proclamation came out against Riotous and Tumultuous Assemblies. The Scowlers scamper'd, the Emperor fled to the *Indies*, and his Empire came to an End. I never had good Information of the *Dancing* Plot, so I shall say nothing more of it, than that I took *Balls* and *Consorts* to be as distant from Plotting, as the Masters of 'em are from Politicks. However, if I am out in my Judgment, I shall be glad to know the Truth of the Matter, and be set right.

The last Plot, and which is now on the Anvil, is the *Band box* Plot, which is also laid to the Charge of the *Whigs*. If the Reader will not believe me, let him have Recourse to the Author I last mention'd, and he will there find that this Plot comes from the very same Quarter as the rest did. *Not being able,*  
says



says he, to succeed in any of those Designs hitherto one need not wonder that such a restless and turbulent Faction are full in contriving the most dangerous Projects; but it is to be hop'd, that Providence some time or other, will discover them, to their utter Confusion and Disgrace, by bringing them to a condign Punishment for their Treasons and Treachery, of which the following Story is one lively Instance, tho' the Bottom of it is not yet discover'd; yet the Matter is so well known, as that it is in every body's Mouth, and need not be doubted, when it is spoke by Persons of undoubted Credit, and who have his Lordship's Good so much at Heart. It is not my Fault, that the Tories don't write better: I am not to blame for quoting what they say, let it be as dull as it will, when I take care to pick out their best Authors; and I am satisfy'd these Quotations will convince every one, that they have not a brighter Man among them; and that the Doctor himself, who discover'd the Plot, cou'd not have said it more elegantly. There happens to be some Difference in the Relation of the Fact between the Worthy Author, and his Brother Abel. The former assures us, it was a Box brought by a Porter, that it was so heavy it was help'd down from the Porter's Back, that Dr. S ——— cut all the Cords at once, that there was Three Pistols in it, each loaded with a Slug, and a Bullet, and a considerable Quantity of Gun powder, to make sure Work, &c. Tho it is plain that this is much the better Author, yet Abel being more to be depended on for his Veracity, I shall chuse to give the Account of this Matter in his own Words.

London, Nov. 13. *The Truth of the Fact concerning the Band-Box sent to the Lord-Treasurer, we are inform'd, is as followeth.*

“ On Tuesday Morning, the 4th Instant,  
 “ the Penny-Post-Man deliver'd a small Parcel  
 “ at the Lord-Treasurer's House, directed  
 “ to his Lordship's Porter, in which, upon  
 “ opening, was found enclos'd a Band-Box,  
 “ directed to the Lord-Treasurer. The Box  
 “ was carry'd up to my Lord's Bed-Chamber,  
 “ and deliver'd to his Lordship, who stretching  
 “ up the Lid as far as the Pack-thread that  
 “ ty'd it would give way, said, He saw a  
 “ Pistol; whereupon, a Gentleman in the  
 “ Room desired the Box might be given to  
 “ him; he took it to the Window, at some  
 “ Distance from my Lord, and open'd it, by  
 “ cutting with a Pen-knife the Pack-threads  
 “ that fasten'd the Lid. The first Thing that  
 “ appear'd was the Stock and Lock of a Pocket-  
 “ Pistol, lying across the Middle of the  
 “ Band-Box, and fasten'd at each End with  
 “ Two Nails; on each Side of the Fire-lock  
 “ were laid the Middle-pieces of Two large  
 “ Ink-horns charg'd with Powder and Ball,  
 “ and Touch-holes bored at the Butt-ends of  
 “ 'em, to which were fasten'd Two Linnen  
 “ Bags of Gunpowder, and at the other Ends  
 “ of the Bags were Two Quills fill'd with  
 “ Wild-fire. These Two artificial Barrels  
 “ were plac'd with the Muzzles contrary-ways,  
 “ and the Quill of one of 'em directed to the  
 “ Pan of the Pistol, as the other probably  
 “ was, tho' disorder'd by the Carriage. The  
 “ Gentle-

“ Gentleman, who open’d the Box, apprehending some Mischief was intended, would not touch the Pistol-stock, till he remov’d all the other Machines ; then gently widening the Box, the Nails which fasten’d the Stock at either End gave way. he found the Firelock prim’d and cock’d, and a Piece of Thread fasten’d to the Trigger, which he conceiv’d he had cut in the opening. The small Nails which fasten’d the Stock at either End, were so contriv’d, that by taking it up at the first View, as it was natural to do with all the Implements about it, the Cock would have gone down and fir’d the whole Train, which would have immediately discharged both Barrels different ways: This could not have been avoided, had the Pistol-stock been pull’d out with any Force, before the Nails were loosen’d, and the Thread cut which was tied to the Trigger”. I wonder how it came to pass, that we had no Animadversions, no Politick Remarks, on such a Business as this : For the Two *Ink-horns* are *Tricks* that would bear abundance of Reflection.

I must here obviate any Objection that may be made, as if I wou’d countenance such an Affront offer’d to a Person so much in Her Majesty’s Favour. I think that’s sufficient to guard any one from Insults ; and I shou’d be far from vindicating it, had it been offer’d to any Gentleman in *England*. Exalted Stations create Envy ; and since every one cannot be gratify’d, it is no wonder Great Men have Enemies ; but to murder by Surprise, or shew a good Will to do it, has something in it so

base, as well as so black, that I shou'd heartily give up the Offender to the Laws, if he was in my Disposal. But that the sending this *Band-Box* was a Plot of the *Whigs* against the Government, is what cannot enter into my Noddle. For granting, which wou'd be going a very great Length, that the Minister is in somewise the Government; he must be a sorry Wretch, who does not know that such Presents as these *Band-Boxes*, sent to Ministers of State, are not first examin'd by themselves; that it was a Thousand to One whether it came first to his Hands, and a Hundred Thousand to One whether it had the cruel Effect, which in Appearance was intended by it, yet such is the envenom'd Malice of some Men, that it turns whatever it touches to Poison; and the poor *Whigs* are sure to be suspected and vilify'd for these Offences; which perhaps had never been committed, but for that very Reason: The *Whigs* having often been hang'd for the Plots the *Tories* made for 'em. There happen'd something in this Affair, which I cannot pass over without Remark; and that is, how applicable the Two *Combustible Ink-horns* are to the Man who is said to have spy'd them first; whose own Ink-horns, for these Two or Three Years, have been loaden with Matter much more Combustible; For which I refer to the *Examiners*, the *Conducts*, the *Jobn Bulls*, &c.

To conclude, I cannot help observing the Answer made to a Person, who had told a Story of another Man's Escape; and that he cry'd out, What a Providence it was he was not kill'd. 'Tis well however, says he, it had  
that



that good Effect upon him, and that he cou'd see there was a Providence, when he was in such Peril, who never before believ'd a Word of it. I call'd at the Coffee-House, to have had some Conferences with you, Sir, about these Matters; but the Widow told me you were not in Town; and that you had been taken up lately very much about Affairs of Consequence. I am satisfy'd, let them be what they will, whenever you oblige the World with a Conspiracy, your Genius will shine much above any one's else in that Kind; who, old as you are, I doubt not have Hopes of seeing the good Work crown'd with Success, for which you have so long been labouring. You will excuse me, if I am not in that so much as you wou'd have me.

*Your Humble Servant*

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